

# Christopher Legerme

## PERSONAL

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CITIZENSHIP: Canadian  
ADDRESS: Cambridge, MA 02139  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2021 - Present    PhD Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Linguistics
- 2020 - 2021    MA University of Toronto  
Linguistics  
Forum Paper: *Creole on the Cusp: Phonological Variation and Change in Haitian Determiners*  
Supervisor: Sali Tagliamonte  
Examiners: Sali Tagliamonte, Naomi Nagy
- 2018 - 2020    BA University of Toronto  
Linguistics, Non-degree  
Credits: 11 FCE, CGPA: 3.87/4.0
- 2015 - 2017    MA BCS Concordia University of Edmonton  
Biblical and Christian Studies  
Concentration: Old Testament (Classical Hebrew) Literature  
Thesis: *A Choir in Lament: The Dialogic Theology of Incessant Invocation in Lamentations*  
Supervisor: William H. U. Anderson  
Examiners: William H. U. Anderson, Steven Muir, Travis Dumsday
- 2010 - 2015    BA, Hons. Concordia University of Edmonton  
Major: Religious Studies, Minor: French

## CONFERENCES, PROCEEDINGS, & INVITED TALKS

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- 2025    **Spell-Out and the Distribution of *ye* in Haitian Creole.**  
Talk at the Summer SPCL 2025.
- 2025    **Haitian Creole at the Syntax-Phonology Interface: Rethinking the *ki/ke* alternation.**  
Invited Talks at Concordia University and the University of Pennsylvania.
- 2025    **Complementizer Agreement and Verb Fronting with Doubling in Haitian Creole.**  
Talk at LSA-SPCL 2025. Invited Talk at the University of Buffalo.
- 2024    **Nonverbal Predicate Clefts and *ye*-resumption in Haitian Creole.**  
Poster Presentation at LSA 2024.
- 2022    **The Effect of Vowel Height on the Nasalization of Postposed Determiners in Haitian Creole.**  
Talk and Proceedings from NWAV 49. NWAV Student Abstract Award. Talk at SPCL 2022.

## COURSES & INSTRUCTION

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Spring 2024	<p>S24.S95: <i>An Introduction to Praat and Phonetic Research</i>. Co-Instructor: Abraham Teitelbaum.</p> <p>MIT Linguistics, NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies</p> <p>In collaboration with Prof. Maya Honda's course, 24.S95 Linguistics in K-12 Education, I taught a 45-minute in-person class to high school students on the basics of phonetic analysis using the Praat software.</p>
Spring 2024	<p>S16000: <i>How to Be a Linguistic Detective</i>. Co-Instructors: Maya Honda, Elhana Sugiaman, Yuexuan Zu.</p> <p>MIT Spark</p> <p>An in-person, 3-hour introductory linguistics lecture delivered to middle school students as part of the MIT Spark program, emphasizing scientific methods for analyzing language using their , exploring phonology, morphology, and syntax through interactive language puzzles and analysis.</p>
Fall 2023	<p>M15745: <i>The Mathematical Foundations of Language</i>. Co-Instructor: Lorenzo Pinton.</p> <p>MIT Splash</p> <p>Taught a 3-hour in-person, math-oriented linguistics class for the MIT Splash program, emphasizing scientific methods for analyzing language using their using formal tools to explore sound, meaning, and the logic behind linguistic structure. High school students.</p>
Spring 2023	<p>S15542: <i>Linguistics: The Science of Language</i>. Co-Instructors: Maya Honda, Cora Lesure, Aspen Abner, Lorenzo Pinton, Yuexuan Zu.</p> <p>MIT Splash</p> <p>Taught a 3-hour in-person introductory linguistics class for early middle school students as part of the MIT Splash program, emphasizing scientific methods for analyzing language using their own intuitions and everyday speech.</p>
Spring 2023	<p>24.S95: <i>Linguistics: Science and Society</i>. Co-Instructor: Jason Meilands.</p> <p>MIT Linguistics, Lyons Community School</p> <p>Completed in partial fulfillment of the requirements for 24.S95 Linguistics in K-12 Education. Delivered a 2-day in-person lecture (45 minutes each) introducing topics in theoretical and sociolinguistics to 11th grade students.</p>

## AWARDS

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2021	MIT PhD Fellowship, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
2021	NWAV Student Abstract Award
	<i>For an abstract with good empirical results. Data on a variety that's well-studied but not with variationist methods.</i>
	<b>Legerme, C.</b> "Creole on the Cusp: Phonological Variation and Change in Haitian Determiners."
2021	Dresher Phonology Prize
	<i>For a paper with great potential in Phonology.</i>
	<b>Legerme, C.</b> "Phonological Features and Contrasts Beyond Speech or Hearing: Evidence from Sign Languages."
2020-2021	University of Toronto Fellowship, Faculty of Arts and Science
2020	Henry Roger's Memorial Scholarship, University of Toronto
2020	Reuben Wells Leonard Scholarship, University of Toronto
2019, 2020	Dean's List Scholar, University of Toronto
2017	Graduate Student Scholarship, Concordia University of Edmonton
2015	Libby Ritter Memorial Scholarship, Concordia University of Edmonton
2014	Jason Lang Scholarship, Concordia University of Edmonton

## TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Fall 2024	24.900: <i>Introduction to Linguistics</i> . Instructor: David Pesetsky. MIT.
Fall 2023	24.900: <i>Introduction to Linguistics</i> . Instructor: Adam Albright. MIT.
Winter 2021	LIN204: <i>English Grammar</i> . Instructors: Heather Yawney, Emilia Melara. University of Toronto.
Fall 2020	LIN203: <i>English Words</i> . Instructor: Marisa Brook. University of Toronto.
Winter 2017	REL338: <i>The Dead Sea Scrolls</i> . Instructor: William H. U. Anderson. Concordia University of Edmonton.
Winter 2017	HEBR102: <i>Biblical Hebrew II</i> . Instructor: William H. U. Anderson. Concordia University of Edmonton.
Fall 2016	HEBR101: <i>Biblical Hebrew I</i> . Instructor: William H. U. Anderson. Concordia University of Edmonton.
Fall 2016	REL321: <i>Historical Literature of the Old Testament</i> . Instructor: William H. U. Anderson. Concordia University of Edmonton.
Fall 2016	REL252: <i>Old Testament Literature</i> . Instructor: William H. U. Anderson. Concordia University of Edmonton.
Winter 2016	REL248: <i>The Christian Tradition</i> . Instructor: John Maxfield. Concordia University of Edmonton.

## FURTHER ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

May 2021 - Jun 2021 May 2020 - Sep 2020	Research Assistant, Maida Percival University of Toronto Using After Effects and Photoshop, I assisted in designing tongue ultrasound overlay videos of recorded speaker articulations in Hän Athabaskan, as part of the phonetic eNunciate project.
Sep 2020 - Apr 2021	Research Assistant, Sali A. Tagliamonte University of Toronto Participated in various phases of a research project in Language Variation and Change, conducting interviews, transcribing speech and carrying out data extraction from a corpus. I coded sociolinguistic variables based on various social and linguistic predictors for later analysis.
Sep 2020 - Nov 2020	Independent Research, Sali A. Tagliamonte University of Toronto Under the supervision of Sali A. Tagliamonte and as a component of my MA program, I organized my own independent fieldwork with speakers of Haitian Creole living in Canada. This involved conducting sociolinguistic interviews with native speakers, and the management and processing of speech data for transcription, coding, and analysis.
May 2019 - May 2020	Lab Assistant (Work-Study; Ontario Dialects Project), Sali A. Tagliamonte University of Toronto I conducted and transcribed sociolinguistic interviews while highlighting and reporting on interesting linguistic features.
Sep 2019 - Apr 2020	Research Assistant (Research Opportunities Program), Sali A. Tagliamonte University of Toronto I assisted Sali A. Tagliamonte in her comparative research on Canadian and American English, transcribing interviews with ELAN, as well as processing and analyzing data.
Oct 2018 - Apr 2019	Research Assistant, Katharina Pabst University of Toronto I worked on transposing handwritten corpora into digital text, as well as transcribing interviews using the ELAN software.

## SERVICE

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May 2025 - Apr 2026	Graduate Student Council Executive Committee, Housing and Community Affairs MIT
May 2025 - Apr 2026	Sidney-Pacific Interest Executive Committee, President MIT
Sep 2025 - Apr 2026	Student Events Board, General Member MIT
May 2024 - Apr 2025	Sidney-Pacific Interest Executive Committee, Chair of the Halls MIT
Mar 2023 - Apr 2024	Sidney-Pacific Interest Groups Officer MIT
Jun 2023 - Aug 2023	English Coach and Mentor <a href="#">Come On Out Japan</a>
Sep 2022 - May 2023	MIT Linguistics Colloquium Organizer MIT
Jun 2022 - Aug 2022	English Coach and Mentor <a href="#">Come On Out Japan</a>
Jun 2017 - Jun 2020	Editor <i>Canadian Journal for Scholarship and the Christian Faith</i>
Feb 2019 - Apr 2019	Editor <i>Undergraduate Journal of Near &amp; Middle Eastern Civilizations</i> , Issue XI Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
Oct 2015 - Jun 2017	K-12 Math, Science Tutor <a href="#">Excellenz Tutoring</a>
Oct 2015 - Apr 2017	French and Latin Tutor Concordia University of Edmonton

## LANGUAGES

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NATIVE:	English, Haitian Creole
FLUENT:	French
INTERMEDIATE:	Spanish
READING:	Classical Hebrew, Attic/Koiné Greek, Latin
FIELDWORK:	English, Haitian Creole, Lingala